(d) whether orchards are also covered under this scheme; if so, the details of (b) and (c) given above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) was in operation from 1986 in Himachal Pradesh. However, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been implemented from Rabi 1999-2000

As per the information furnished by the Implementing Agency, 32 farmers have been covered under the NAIS in the State during rabi 1999-2000.

(c) One State-level Workshop and four district-level awareness cum training programmes had been conducted for the benefit of farmers; officials of the State Government and financial institutions concerned.

(d) NAIS covers cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds and annual commercial/ horticultural crops subject to the availability of adequate past yield data. Orchards being perennial in nature, are not covered under NAIS at present.

Malpractices adopted by traders posing as farmers in A.P.

3550. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether traders of Andhra Pradesh posing as farmers sell chilli in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh at high prices and evade income and commercial taxes; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to stop such malpractices and assist farmers actually to get the benefit of production and not traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Ministry of Agriculture has not received any report about malpractices adopted by traders posing as farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

Integrated Seed Development Scheme

3551. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Integrated Seed Development Scheme (ISDS) is under implementation in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) results achieved from ISDS in the State; and

(d) other steps being taken by Government to make available good quality particularly hybrid seeds in Gujarat at affordable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Seed Development Programme for not Easily Accessible and Remote Areas of States/Union Territories including Gujarat was launched in 1995-96 for two years. The scheme was discontinued from April, 1997.

(c) Results achieved by the Government of Gujarat are as under:

(i) Number of trainings conducted for farmers on seed production and quality control;

(ii) Number of Seed Demonstrations conducted to show the superiority of certified seed over non-certified seed of local varieties;

(iii) Quantity of seed transported to 89.30 Qtls. not easily accessible and remote areas of the State.

(d) The timely supply of seed to the farmers at reasonable rates is primarily the responsibility of the State Government whose efforts are supplemented by the Central Government. The Central Government assesses the State-wise requirement and availability of seeds prior to each sowing season i.e. Kharif and Rabi, with the State Governments and other seed producing agencies through Zonal Seed Review Meetings. For Kharif 2000, the seed availability as reported by the Government of Gujarat is 2.47 lakh quintals, against the seed requirement of 2.12 lakh quintals for the State.

Utilisation of Modern Technologies in Agriculture

3552. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to orgainse Swadeshi Vigyan Mela in Hyderabad or Visakhapatnam to acquaint farmers with utilization of modern technologies in agriculture with the assistance of Government agencies and agricultural universities;

(b) if so, by when; and